

**Steve Marshall**  
Alabama Attorney General



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## **Attorney General Steve Marshall Announces Court of Criminal Appeals Upholds Murder Conviction in Mobile County**

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steve Marshall announced that the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals affirmed the conviction of Richard Peterson Jones, age 36, of Mobile, for murder. Jones was convicted in the Mobile County Circuit Court on April 19, 2022.

The evidence at trial established that on June 16, 2017, Erica Farris's body was discovered behind a vacant building in Mobile. At the time of Farris's death, Jones, a local drug dealer, was angry with Farris, believing that she had stolen drugs from him. Jones confessed to his girlfriend that he had conspired with someone to lure Farris into a car where he demanded Farris's cellular telephone and subsequently shot and killed her. Telephone records seized during the investigation confirmed Jones's role in Farris's murder.

Mobile County District Attorney Keith Blackwood's office successfully prosecuted this case and obtained a guilty verdict. Jones was sentenced to life in prison for his murder conviction. Jones sought to have his conviction reversed on appeal.

The Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Division handled the case during the appeals process, arguing for the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals to affirm Jones's conviction. The Court did so in a decision issued Friday, March 17, 2023.

Attorney General Marshall commended Assistant Attorney General John E. Owen for his successful work on this case and thanks District Attorney Keith Blackwood and his staff for their valuable assistance in defending the murder conviction.

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